Mes

ASHTON upon MERSEY URBAN DISTRICT 1897.

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. Charles J. Renshaw.

Population at Census 1891 - 4234.

Estimated Population in middle of 1897 - 5'200.

Area in acres - 1622.

Birth rate per 1000 living 24.4.

Death rate per 1000 living 15.9.

Death rate from seven principal zymotic diseases 2'8.

Deaths under one year to 1000 births, 190.

Total number of births. 127.

Total number of deaths. 83.

Cases of infectious disease notified.

Diphtheris 10, scarlet fever, 30. typhoid fever5, Measles 20, Erysipelas 1, puerperal fever 1, whooping cough 21.

Of the diphtheria, most of the cases were in the neighbourhood of the Cross Street and your Authority finding out that the Moss Side tip was being used for all manner of deposits, took action and the Moss Side Urban Council consented to an order, on the case being brought before the magistrates, since the tip was covered with earth and greater care has been taken as to the material brought, there have been no fresh cases in its neighbourhood.

Scarlet fever, has been more general, three of the cases were undoubtedly brought in from other neighbourhoods, the difficulty of preventing these cases is the Wakes and the Christmas gatherings.

In dread of epidemics which have been heard of in various localities, your Board decided that measles and whooping cough should also be notifiable diseases, particularly that parents having children so suffering should be instructed that such children should not mix with other children until thoroughly recovered.

In November it became necessary, owing to there being a severe case of typhoid fever, immediately followed by ~~two~~ 3 others in the same house, to consider the house as a hospital and to take it over as such for the time being, sending out the healthy members of the family, none of the out going people suffered afterwards. The typhoid did not spread.

In the early part of December, two cases of diphtheria were reported in one house, and in the same house four more persons became affected, report of this was made to the Local Board of London, the probable cause was infection from outside the neighbourhood, there are no further cases reported.

The sewerage in Moss Lane being complained of, it was found that a block had taken place close to the house, also the sewer in the road required either cleaning out, or a new one made, your ~~Surveyor~~ Authority decided that the least expense would be

to make a new one, and that is now almost completed.

Dunbar Road has recently been recindered, a number of houses have recently been built there, as there is no sewer in the road these houses are drained into cesspools, three of the cases of diphtheria were reported from these houses, as the cesspools are unventilated, there is great danger of ill health to the inhabitants.

The large death rate given is caused to a great extent by the old people dying, as no fewer than twenty were over sixty five years of age, your Authority is therefore evidently a place in which to reach longevity; of those under one year, 190 per 1000 births.

There have been 140 inspections made during the year and advice given where necessary.

The privy system, is to a very large extent the usual ashpit one, and this is very well looked after by your Inspector.

The general sewerage is good and the willow beds are thoroughly doing their duty, the outflow after the drainage there is reported as almost pure water, only a little oxide of iron being found: so that there is no contamination to the river from the sewage.